

# Thanksgiving Then and Now

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Example

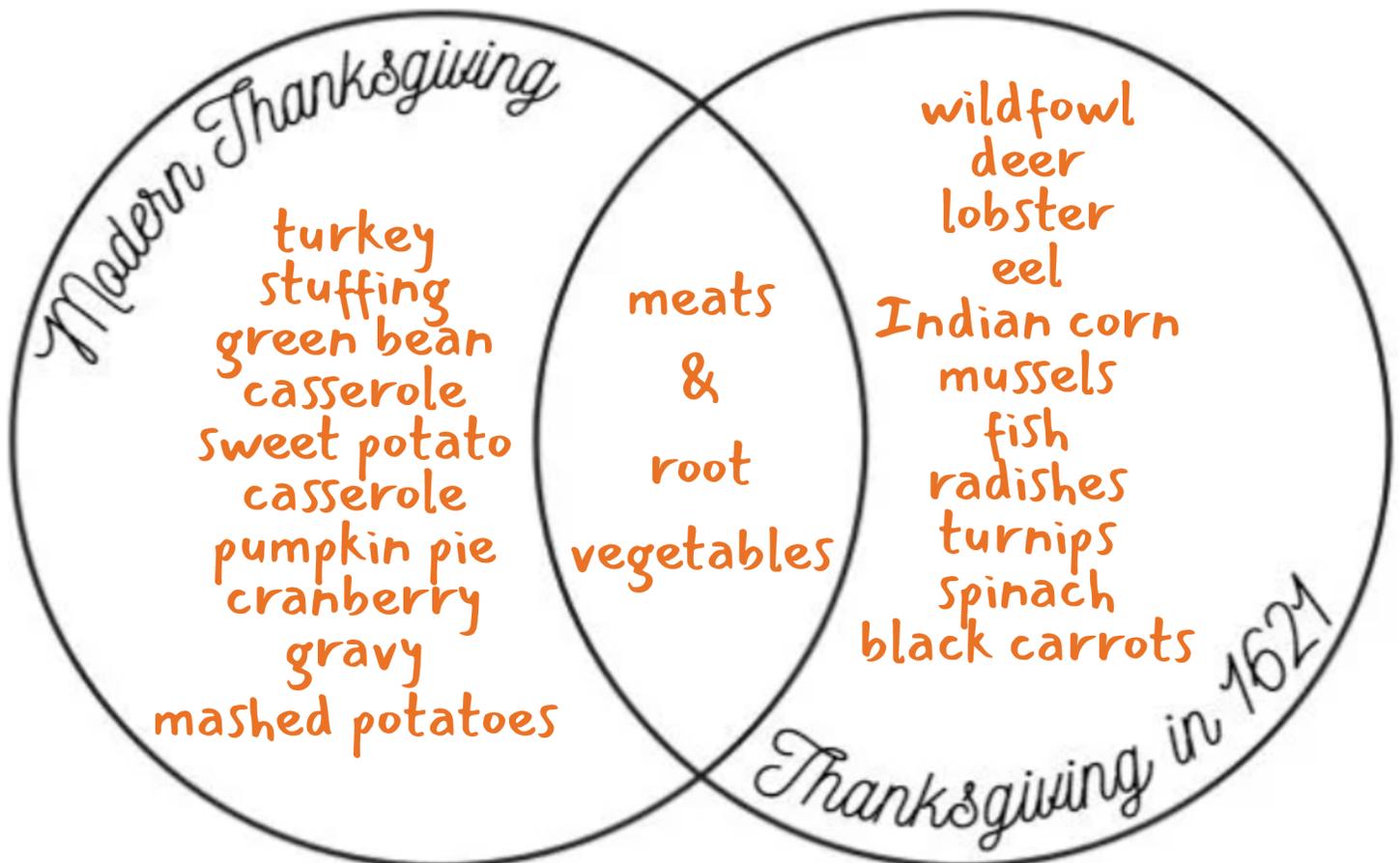
Modern Thanksgiving is different from Thanksgiving in 1621. Read "Be a Pilgrim for a Day" and then use the numbered spaces below to list three topics for comparison and contrast.

1. **food**
2. **etiquette**
3. **entertainment**



Record your first comparison/contrast topic on the line below. Then, use the outer circles of the Venn diagram below to note ways the Thanksgivings are different. Finally, use the middle section to note any commonalities the Thanksgivings share in regard to this topic.

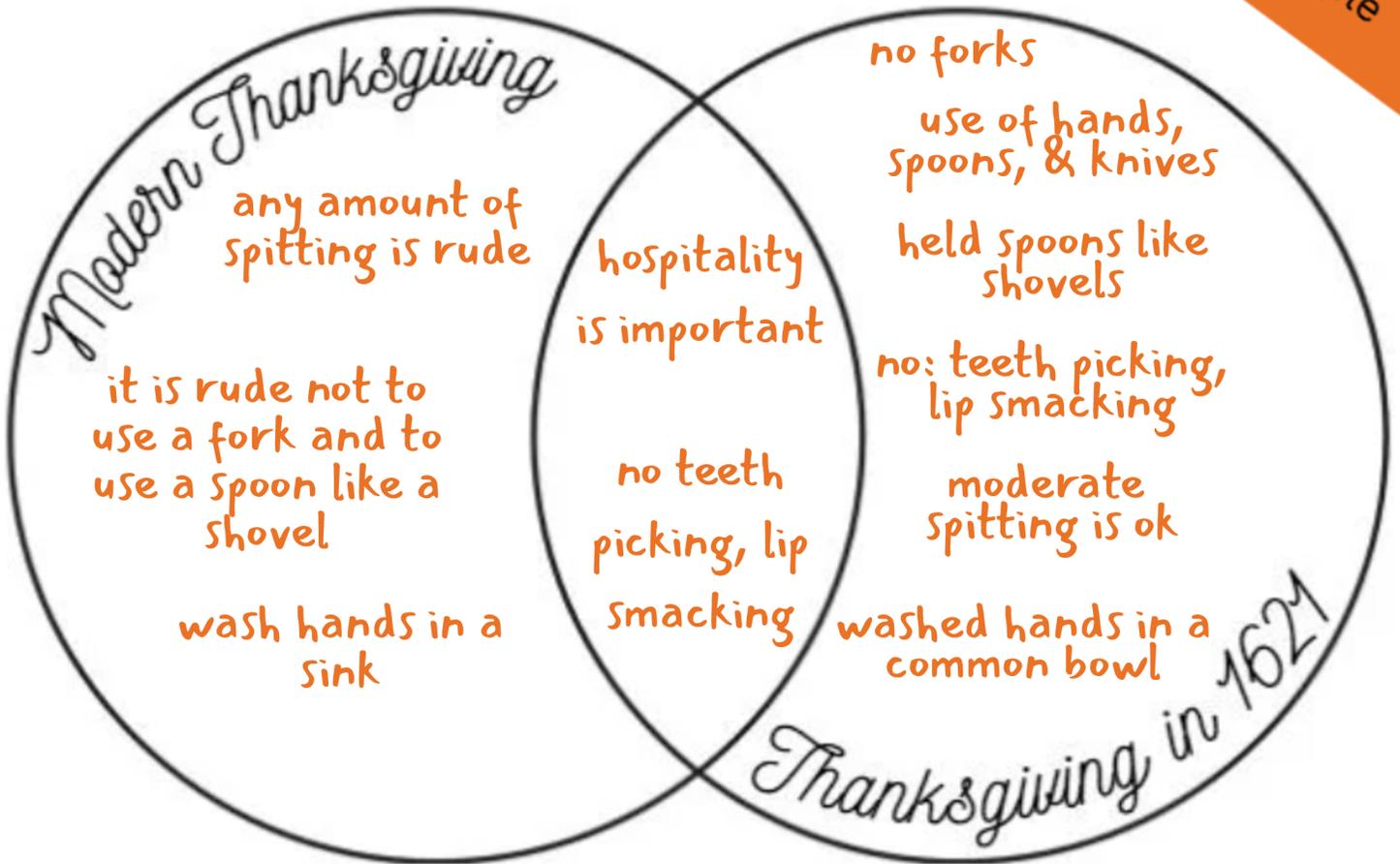
Comparison/Contrast Topic 1: food



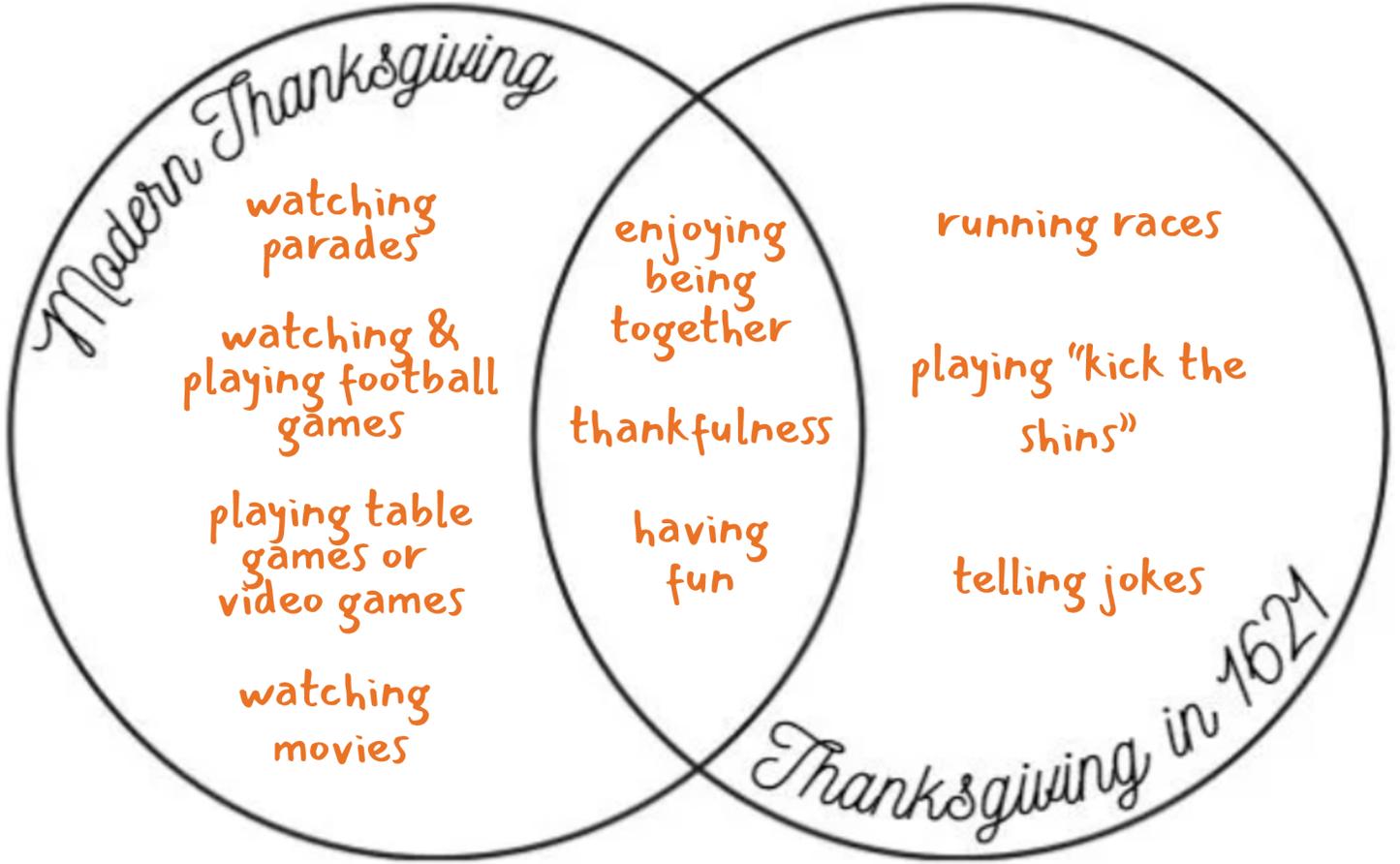
Use your second and third comparison/contrast topics to complete the Venn diagram

Example

Comparison/Contrast Topic 2: etiquette



Comparison/Contrast Topic 3: entertainment



# Thanksgiving Then and Now Outline

## Introduction



**Attention-grabbing hook:** What do black carrots and eels have in common? They  
are foods the pilgrims ate at the first Thanksgiving.

**Background-information** (Provide a date and a location): In 1621 the pilgrims were  
thankful they had survived a terrible first year in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

**Thesis sentence:** Our modern Thanksgiving is different from theirs  
in regard to the food we eat, our etiquette, and our entertainment.

## First Body Paragraph



**Topic sentence:** The yummy foods we eat for Thanksgiving today make  
the pilgrims' foods seem plain and gross.

**Observation 1** about modern Thanksgiving: Turkey is the main protein at our modern Thanksgiving meal.

**Comparison or contrast** to Thanksgiving in 1621: The pilgrims may have had turkey,  
but that is uncertain. They ate other "wildfowl", deer, and lots of seafood.

**Observation 2** about modern Thanksgiving: For vegetables, we love mashed potatoes  
with gravy. We also eat sweet potato casserole and green bean casserole.

**Comparison** to Thanksgiving in 1621: Their vegetables were just spinach and  
boiled carrots. Weirdest of all, their carrots were black!

**(Optional) Observation 3** about modern Thanksgiving: Today, we most look forward to  
eating pumpkin pie and other desserts after our big meal.

**Comparison** to Thanksgiving in 1621: The pilgrims didn't eat pumpkin pie.  
In fact, there's no record of them having pumpkins at all.

**Clincher Sentence:** Our modern Thanksgiving foods are not much like  
the foods the pilgrims shared with the Indians in 1621.

## Conclusion



Example

Restate the thesis, but not in the same words: Although we gather together for Thanksgiving nowadays for the same reason the pilgrims did in 1621, many things are not the same in regard to our foods, our manners, and our pastimes.

So, what? Tell why this information is interesting or meaningful: Looking back at the little the pilgrims had should make us extra thankful that we enjoy so many delicious foods and have so many interesting forms of entertainment, not just on Thanksgiving but everyday!

## MLA Bibliography Entry



Use the chart below to gather information for an MLA bibliography entry for the article about Thanksgiving. Skip rows in which the information is not presented and move on to the next row.

Author's last name	Jacobs	,
Author's first name	A.J.	.
Title of article or chapter (in quotations)	"Be A Pilgrim for a Day"	.
Title of the "container" (the book, magazine, or website the article comes out of)	Parade	,
Volume or version	(not applicable)	,
Number	(not applicable)	,
Publisher (skip this if it is the same as the title of the website).	Athlon Media Group	,
Publication date	Nov 15, 2009	,
Location (URL)	<a href="https://parade.com/46722/ajjacobs/15-pilgrim-for-a-day/">https://parade.com/46722/ajjacobs/15-pilgrim-for-a-day/</a>	.

Format your citation into one or two continuous lines. Don't forget to place periods after the author's name, the title information, and the publication information. Within those three categories, place commas between pieces of information. Notice that the first line of a bibliography entry meets the page margin on the left. Subsequent lines are tab indented.

### Bibliography

Jacobs, A.J. "Be a Pilgrim for a Day". Parade Magazine, Athlon Media Group, Nov 15 2009, <https://parade.com/46722/ajjacobs/15-pilgrim-for-a-day/>.

# Sample Essay (first page)

What do black carrots and eels have in common? They are foods the pilgrims ate at the first Thanksgiving. In 1621 the pilgrims were thankful they had survived a terrible first year in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Our modern Thanksgiving is different from theirs in regard to the food we eat, our etiquette, and our entertainment.

The yummy foods we eat for Thanksgiving today make the pilgrims' foods seem plain and gross. Turkey is the main protein at our modern Thanksgiving meal. The pilgrims may have had turkey, but that is uncertain. They ate other "wildfowl", deer, and lots of seafood. For vegetables nowadays, we love mashed potatoes with gravy. We also eat sweet potato casserole and green bean casserole. Their vegetables were just spinach and boiled carrots. Weirdest of all, their carrots were black! Today, we most look forward to eating pumpkin pie and other desserts after our big meal. The pilgrims didn't eat pumpkin pie. In fact, there's no record of them having pumpkins at all. Our modern Thanksgiving foods are not much like the foods the pilgrims shared with the Indians in 1621.

Picking teeth and smacking lips at the table is just rude in any century, and it certainly was at the Thanksgiving banquet of 1621. Spitting at the table is another thing that is not tolerated today. Back then, apparently, "moderate spitting" was just fine. What other ways are our table manner today now different from manners in 1621? First, the pilgrims thought nothing of washing their hands in a common bowl. In today's overly sanitized kitchens, community hand washing is unthinkable! Second, it's rude nowadays to use a spoon like a shovel. Not then. Additionally, the pilgrims didn't use forks, but we can't hold that against them. They didn't have any! Finally,

# Bibliography

Jacobs, A.J. "Be a Pilgrim for a Day". *Parade Magazine*, Athlon Media Group, Nov 15 2009,  
<https://parade.com/46722/ajjacobs/15-pilgrim-for-a-day/>.